

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5736

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: POLITICAL CALM ON EVE OF PROCLAMATION OF
ELECTIONS

1. SUMMARY: NATIONAL POLITICKING TOOK NEAR HOLIDAY
OCT. 2 IN ANTICIPATION CABINET MEETING THIS EVENING AND
PROSPECTIVE PROCLAMATION OF DATE FOR ELECTIONS OCT. 3.
MEANWHILE FM MAVROS BEFORE LEAVING NEW YORK DENIED REPORT
THAT HE FAVORED DELAYING ELECTIONS, AND ANDREAS PAPANDREOU
PROMPTLY SCOTCHED RUMOR THAT PASOK WOULD COOPERATE WITH
CENTER UNION. STIRRINGS FROM EXTREME RIGHT SUGGEST
CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL GROUPS MAY EMERGE AFTER ELECTION
DATE ANNOUNCEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTERNOON NEWSPAPERS VRAKYNI, TA NEA, AND APOYEVMATINI
ANTICIPATED THAT SHORTLY AFTER DEPUTY PM AND FM MAVROS'
ARRIVAL FROM NEW YORK CABINET WOULD MEET AND NOV. 10
WOULD BE ANNOUNCED AS ELECTIONS DATE. REPORTAGE FAILED
TO CONSIDER MAVROS MIGHT REQUIRE FEW HOURS REST BEFORE
CABINET MEETING BUT THIS STEMS FLATTERINGLY FROM HIS
REPUTATION OF IRREPRESSIBLE ACTIVITY. ONLY APOYEVMATINI,
WHICH REPORTEDLY RECEIVED SUBSIDY FROM PASOK, CONTINUING
PRESS FOR POSTPONEMENT. FM MAVROS RELEASED FIRM DENIAL
OF EARLIER REPORTS ALLEGEDLY EMANATING FROM CENTER UNION
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CIRCLES THAT HE WOULD SEEK POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS UPON

HIS RETURN TO ATHENS.

3. SOCIALIST DEMOCRATIC UNIOON WITH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY PROTOPAPPAS AS CHAIRMAN, ELECTED NINE-MAN COMMITTEE WHO WITH SINGLE EXCEPTION ARE MEN WITHOUT POLITICAL EXPERIENCE. PROTOPAPPAS' PARTY IS REPORTEDLY STILL UNDECIDED WHETHER TO COLLABORATE WITH CENTER UNION OR NEW POLITICAL FORCES, THE LATTER REMAINING IN LIMBO ALLEGEDLY TORN BETWEEN JOINING RANKS WITH NEW DEMOCRACY OR CENTER UNION. ONLY ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S PASOK MAINTAINS ITS TACTICAL INDEPENDENCE, ISSUING STATEMENT OCTOBER 1 THAT "RUMORS REGARDING ELECTORAL COOPERATION BETWEEN PASOK AND OTHER POLITICAL GROUPINGS DO NOT CORRESPOND TO REALITY." AKROPOLIS IN FRONTPAGE ANALYSIS COMPARED 1964 ELECTIONS TO PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND PREDICTED THAT UPCOMING ELECTION RESULTS WOULDDEMONSTRATE SHIFT IN GREEK POLITICS FROM TRADITIONAL LEFT, RIGHT, CENTER TO LEFT/SOCIALIST/ANDREAS PAPANDREOU ON ONE HAND AND PROGRESSIVE/DEMOCRATIC FORCES OF CENTER UNION AND CARMANLIS ON OTHER. IN ITS ANALYSIS ONLY THE RIGHT APPEARS TO HAVE SUFFERED ECLIPSE.

4. RIGHTISTS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ORGANIZING BEHIND SCENES. THIS BECOMES MORE APPARENT AS RUMORS SURFACE THAT CARAMANLIS HAS DROPPED ABOUT 40 EX-ERE DEPUTIES FROM NEW DEMOCRACY CANDIDATES LIST. SOME OF THOSE DROPPED (JUNTA COLLABORATORS OR CONVERSANTS) ARE REGROUPING WITH EX-CU MINISTER OF DEFENSE PETER GAROUFALIAS WHO IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE NEW MOVEMENT, "NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION," NEXT WEEK. GAROUFALIAS' MOVEMENT AS REPORTED IN PRESS WOULD INCLUDE THOSE FROM TRADITIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES WHO FOR "VARIOUS REASONS" CANNOT MAINTAIN FORMER LINKS. FURTHER TO RIGHT ARE THE REPORTED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF EX-PAPADOPOULOS COLLABORATORS WHO PORPOSE TO FORM NEW POLITICAL MOVEMENT WITH NATIONALISTIC COLORATION. THESE INCLUDE FORMER UNDER SECRETARY OF INTERIOR CHRISTOS MICHALOS, FORMER UNDER SECRETARY OF COORDINATION DVLAMBRIOS, PROFESSOR DESTOUNIS, FORMER NOMARCHS, ETD. A SEPARATE RIGHTIST GROUP CALLED EMPROS HAS SENT CIRCULARS TO NEWSPAPERS ANNOUNCING ITS FORMATION AND FACT THAT REPRESENTATIVES HAVE VISITED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS TO PRESENT ITS PLATFORM WHICH INCLUDES AMNESTY FOR THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN GOVERNMENT 1967-74, AND STRENGTHENING OF INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES. ALSO ON RIGHT SPECTRUM EX-PM MAKEZINIS REPORTEDLY IS WAITING UNTIL AFTER CABINET DECIDES ELECTION DATE TO ANNOUNCE INTENTIONS OF HIS PROGRESSIVE PARTY. KUBISCH

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